

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

December 19, 2006

7:00 P.M.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Tuesday, December 19, 2006, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The following members were present: Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Shea Butcher was not present. Leslie Ryan was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the open session minutes of the meeting held on November 20, 2006, as amended (second paragraph on page 2 should list Martha Velie-Gass and Janet Merritt as co-chairs and the last paragraph on page 4 should read that Mr. McGarry recused himself from the discussion regarding an additional pod being placed on the school grounds) carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the executive session minutes of the meetings (Session #1 and Session #2) held on November 20, 2006, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

Reports

Nancy Cole reported that the June 30, 2006, fiscal report shows a better than anticipated fund balance of \$52,647.83. She stated that the November 30, 2006, fiscal report shows we are on target for the year. A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the fiscal reports dated June 30, July 31, August 30, September 30, October 31, and November 30, 2006, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

Jeffrey Wadovick, a representative from the district's auditing firm of James Nadeau & Company, presented the audit report to the School Committee. Mr. Wadovick suggested that money not be re-appropriated from the fund balance this year to help with next year's budget because the fund balance is not large enough. He stated that he found an error in his statement, but it does not affect the bottom line. He will correct this and send a final copy of the audit.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept and approve the audit report as amended by our auditor and authorize its transmittal to the Commissioner of Education carried with a vote of 4-0.

William Padien reported that he attended the Keywords meeting via Polycom regarding the new high school regulations. These regulations are changing the requirements for high school graduation beginning with the class of 2008. School committees will be required to develop policies to address the new proficiency regulations and they must be submitted to RIDE by May 2007. It was suggested that districts use South Kingstown's policy as an outline.

Annie Hall reported that the Block Island Early Learning Center was the recipient of a donated bus. She stated that Joan Corwin, the owner of a large school bus company, donated the bus and thanked Howie Rice for his help in this endeavor.

Mr. Padien updated the committee on the status of the addition/renovation project. The tech ed room still hasn't been completed because of the electrical issues of the dust collector. Howell Conant has been contracted to perform the work, but has not been able to schedule it yet. Once he starts it should take about two weeks to complete. Mr. Conant will also complete the OSHA required emergency shut-offs for several pieces of equipment in the shop. The heat related issues have been monitored in Providence. They have replaced all the necessary pieces and units should be working properly now. One reason the boilers were shutting down over the weekends is because the motors for the louvers weren't working. Don Atkinson will be working on the old system next Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to recommend to the Town Manager to approve the electrical estimate from Omni Associates to complete the electrical work in the tech ed room carried with a vote of 4-0.

Chief Carlone has a copy of the building plans to develop an incident response plan(s). It was suggested that several people should travel to Narragansett to see that security system before any money is

spent on buzzer systems or other security devices. Mr. Padien reported that the upstairs can be accessed through the door at the end of the hallway by the gym. He has suggested that a deadbolt be put on that door, which in this case is not a fire code violation.

Matthew Moran submitted a written athletic report, but was also present to answer questions. The Rescue Squad held a CPR training session for prospective coaches on November 27. The basketball season is underway, but only a couple of games have been played. Paul Cunningham is currently coaching the junior high boys' basketball team without an assistant, but this position will be advertised as soon as possible. Jill Closter has been doing a fabulous job coaching the girls' varsity basketball team in the absence of the head coach who is currently on vacation. It was suggested that the athletic handbook be updated with the correct academic eligibility/ participation policy and be given to each athlete.

Marlee Lacoste reported on the following:

- Block Island School Friends held a successful Thanksgiving pie sale. Volunteers baked over 200 pies in the school kitchen and others were donated by various families. The plant sale and Hurricanes T-shirt and sweatshirt sales were also successful. A thank you to Amy Couet and Molly O'Neill for their efforts with the School Friends. Another successful fundraiser was the Scholastic Book Fair, which was organized by Amy Dugan.

- The juniors and seniors, along with their parents, attended the Financial Aid Night, which was organized by David Stephenson. Due to the boat schedule the representative from the College Planning Center was able to meet with a number of parents individually the next day. Mr. Stephenson has been meeting with sophomores and juniors to review their PSAT scores and with the seniors as they continue the college application process.
- The secondary faculty met as a group on December 4 to work on High School Regulations with a consultant from the Westerly School Department. Students in grades 8-12 were kept busy by filling out the SALT survey, talking with Chief Carlone, watching the movie “Radio”, and then playing in a volleyball tournament.
- The holiday concert is scheduled for tomorrow at 1:00 P.M. in the gym. Students from elementary and high school classes have been busy preparing songs and plays.
- Plans are underway for the seniors to attend the Close Up program in Washington, DC from January 28 through February 1. Mrs. Lacoste will chaperon the trip this year, which is paid for from budgeted school funds, BISF, family contributions, and fundraising.
- Students eligible for the National Honor Society have been notified. Their applications will be reviewed and an induction ceremony held during the third or fourth week of January.

Mrs. Ryan stated that she had spoken to Nancy Dodge and has received a commitment from Mike Shea to work with Everett Littlefield to get the campus cleaned up of construction debris. She also

thanked Amy Dugan and Donna Ortelli for their work on the book sale.

Mrs. Ryan reported that she attended a superintendents' meeting on December 12 where the 5.25 percent cap on school budgets was discussed. She stated that all the superintendents are flummoxed and some will have to lay-off teachers to stay within the cap.

Mrs. Ryan stated that the high school faculty is working on the reform movement, which includes taking a good hard look at graduation requirements and aligning them with the other school districts in the state. Our students must complete an exhibition and content area exit tests. This is an attempt to personalize education for the students. Mrs. Warfel, who unexpectedly had some of her students move off-island, is currently working as the coordinator for our district.

Mrs. Ryan reported that she has started the teacher evaluations and is enjoying this interesting part of her position.

Old Business

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to approve the resolution for the superintendent search committee and appoint the following people to serve on the committee carried with a vote of 4-0.

- Sean McGarry – representing the School Committee
- John Gasner and Kathy Szabo – representing the general public

- **Susan Gibbons and Martha Velie-Gass – representing the teaching staff**
- **Marsha Gutierrez – representing the administration**
- **Lynne Cunningham – representing the support staff**

The results of the vacation options survey conducted by the Site Council on for the 2007-2008 school calendar were submitted for School Committee review. Richard Tretheway expressed frustration with the survey, stating he felt the questions were leading and the results skewed. Sean McGarry suggested that this issue be addressed by the new principal next year.

New Business

Policy GA: HIV Infected Students and Employees (originally approved as Guidelines Relating to HIV/Hepatitis) has been updated as required by RIDE and the Rhode Island Department of Health. A copy of the Proposed Universal Precautions Procedures for Block Island School (as taken from Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education & Rhode Island Department of Health Policy Guidelines Related to HIV/Hepatitis, 2006) was also presented and will be included with Policy GA. A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to post Policy GA: HIV Infected Students and Employees for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 4-0.

A request was received from Robin and Richard Vila for their son, Clayton, to attend Waterville Valley Academy again this year. The academy teachers will be responsible for attendance, administering

the materials, and grading Clayton's performance, but will follow the Block Island School tenth grade curriculum. A motion (Hall, McGarry) to approve Robin and Richard Vila's request to home school their son, Clayton, so he can attend Waterville Valley Academy from November 27, 2006, through March 30, 2007, carried with a vote of 4-0.

A request was received from Jennifer Phillips for her son, Perry, to enroll in Community Collaborations, an international program in Ecuador. Mrs. Phillips has requested that Perry's teachers provide him with the work he will be missing so he can keep up with his Block Island School peers. A motion (Hall, McGarry) to approve Jennifer Phillip's request to home school her son, Perry, so he can participate in an international program in Ecuador from January 22 through February 23, 2007, carried with a vote of 4-0.

It is recommended that the search for a principal be initiated sooner rather than later. Information from RIASC regarding principal salaries for 2005-06, previous and proposed advertisements, and a job description developed last summer by Jack Lyle were submitted for review. It was suggested that the principal search committee could gather more information on job descriptions from the districts across the state if necessary. It was decided that the salary range would be between \$80,000 and \$90,000, depending on experience, plus benefits. An advertisement will be placed in the Providence Journal and the Block Island Times with a deadline of January 16, 2007.

Annie Hall has already volunteered to serve on the search committee.

Jennifer Phillips, Joanne Warfel, and Maureen Flaherty have all expressed interest in serving on the committee. A motion (McGarry, Tretheway) to appoint Annie Hall as the School Committee representative and chair of the principal search committee carried with a vote of 4-0. A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to appoint Joanne Warfel, Maureen Flaherty, and Jennifer Phillips to the principal search committee carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to accept with regret Gene Warfel's resignation as Network Manager for the Block Island School carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to accept with regret Rob Closter's resignation as co-coach of the boys' junior high basketball team carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to consent to the appointment of Paul Cunningham as the head coach for the boys' junior high basketball team carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointment of Kirk Littlefield as the head coach for the 5-6 soccer team for the 2006 season carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointments of Hank

Woodward as a consultant to work on repairs and support for PCs and John Barry as a consultant for MAC support carried with a vote of 3-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

Per state statute, during the regular meeting in December the School Committee is required to establish a list of monthly meeting dates for the upcoming year and publish this list in the newspaper of record. A proposed list of meeting dates for the 2007 calendar year was submitted for review. It was noted that the meetings scheduled for January, February, and April should not occur on the third Monday because of the Martin Luther King Day holiday and school vacations. Suggestions were to change the March meeting to the 5th and the June meeting to the 11th. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the list of meeting dates as amended (March 19 to March 5 and June 18 to June 11) carried with a vote of 4-0.

Calendar of Events

The committee was reminded that the annual pre-budget meeting with the Town Council will take place at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, December 20. School Committee budget work sessions will be held on January 3, 8, and 10.

Correspondence

Various pieces of correspondence were submitted for School Committee information. It was suggested that the e-mail from Mr. Lyle be forwarded to Attorney Myers.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 10:02 P.M. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 4-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 10:45 P.M. to return to open session carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to seal the minutes of the executive session carried with a vote of 4-0.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 10:46 P.M. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: 1/16/2007